

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancel Claim 16; and amends Claim 1. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for Claim 1 is found in canceled Claim 16. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-15 will be pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

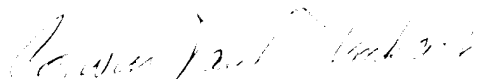
Claims 1-7 and 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,177,143 ("Treadwell"). In addition, Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Treadwell. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Final Rejection at page 2, section 5. Claim 16 is canceled and incorporated into independent Claim 1. Thus, independent Claim 1 is allowable. Therefore the rejections over Treadwell should be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:
Marked-up copy of amendments



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